

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-07 IO-13

DLOS-09 OES-07 /098 W

-----060968 250531Z /10

R 250228Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8126

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 4747

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PLOS, MY, VM, LA

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER DISCLAIMS INTENTION MAKE ASEAN A SECURITY
ARRANGEMENT; MINISTER OF LAW SUGGESTS NEGOTIATIONS OVER
SEABED

REFS: (A) KL 3170 (B) VIENTIANE 1077 (C) VIETIANE 0890

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING CALL BY ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
ORGANIZATION SECGEN GAYE JULY 21, FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN
STATED THAT ASEAN IS NOT REPEAT NOT A MILITARY ORGANIZATION
ACCORDING TO THE NEW STRAITS TIMES (JULY 22). IN RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONS ARISING FROM JOINT SRV-LDPR CRITICISM OF ASEAN AS
A US-BACKED MILITARY ALLIANCE, RITHAUDDEEN REPORTEDLY ALSO SAID
THAT: "THE MILITARY COOPERATION (BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND
THAILAND) IS NOT AIMED AT A THIRD PARTY BUT IS STRICTLY
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CONFINED TO THE BORDER TO SUPPRESS A COMMON ENEMY. WE HAVE NO
OTHER DESIRE THAN TO SOLVE OUR OWN PROBLEMS." THE FM NOTED
THAT HE HAD EXPLAINED THIS POSITION IN BOTH HANOI AND
VIETNTIANE WHEN HE VISITED THERE AT THE END OF MAY.

2. ANOTHER REPORT IN THE SAME EDITION OF THE NST

STATES MINISTER OF LAW/ATTORNEY GENERAL TAN SRI KADIR YUSOF HAS SAID THAT HE WILL TABLE A BILL EXTENDING MALAYSIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 200 MILES. A DIRECT QUOTE, HOWEVER, MAKES CLEAR THAT KADIR'S BILL WILL EXTEND ONLY THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE, AND NOT MALAYSIA'S TERRITORIAL LIMITS. HE SAID THAT THE GOM PLANNED TO NEGOTIATE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES BORDERING ON THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, MENTIONING VIETNAM SPECIFICALLY, TO ESTABLISH THE "MIDDLE LINE" OF THE ZONE.

3. COMMENT. MALAYSIA CONTINUES TO WINCE AT BUT NOT TO OVER-REACT TO WHAT IT FEELS ARE UNWARRANTED ATTACKS ON ASEAN FROM THE LDPR AND SRV. MFA OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ELEMENTS OF THE SRV AROUND PHAM VAN DONG ACTUALLY ACCEPT THE INNOCENCE OF ASEAN INTENTIONS BUT THAT VIENTIANE REMAINS INTRANSIGENT. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INTENTION TO SUBMIT A BILL ON THE ECONOMIC ZONE IS NOT NEW. THIS IS HIS FIRST MENTION, HOWEVER, OF THE NEED TO DELINEATE THE ECONOMIC ZONES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA THROUGH CONSULTATIONS.
MILLER

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